



NEWS RELEASE No. 12-088

December 13, 2012

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HAMMOND NAMED STATE MANAGER FOR BREATHITT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Larry Hammond, former superintendent of the Rockcastle County school district, will serve as state manager for the Breathitt County school district, the Kentucky Department of Education announced today.

He will begin his duties as state manager immediately.

"Larry Hammond has a solid reputation as a superintendent, and his experience in the areas of finance, management and curriculum will help lead Breathitt County schools to improvement," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday.

Under the terms of a personal service contract, Hammond will be paid \$700 per day for a maximum of 145 days during fiscal year 2013 and for a maximum of 260 days in fiscal year 2014. He also will be reimbursed up to \$1,500 per month for housing, travel and other expenses during the two fiscal years. The funds for these payments will be provided by the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Breathitt County school district will reimburse the agency.

Hammond served as superintendent of the Rockcastle County school system for 17 years, through the 2011-12 school year. He also served as director of student services/pupil personnel, transportation and facilities for the district prior to becoming superintendent. Hammond taught industrial arts and language arts as well. He earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree and his administrative certification from Eastern Kentucky University.

In 2011, Hammond received the F.I. Dupree Award, given to an outstanding Kentucky superintendent each year by the Kentucky School Boards Association. Award honorees, chosen by a panel of past recipients, are recognized for high-quality leadership in educational programs and building strong bonds with students, staff and community members.

(more)

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The Breathitt County school district has been placed under state management as a result of a pattern of significant lack of effectiveness and efficiency, which was determined after a management audit was conducted in November. In accordance with state law KRS 158.785, if the commissioner determines that a management audit of a school district establishes such a pattern, the Kentucky Board of Education can declare the district "state-managed." The board agreed with the commissioner's determination on the Breathitt County system at its December meeting.

As a result of the state-managed designation, all administrative, operational, financial, personnel and instructional aspects of management formerly exercised by the Breathitt County Board of Education and district superintendent are now exercised by Commissioner Holliday. Hammond will be the commissioner's on-site designee to implement these actions.

The district will develop and implement an improvement plan approved by the Kentucky Board of Education identifying deficiencies and corrective actions necessary to improve school district governance and administration.

The district's improvement plan will include specific objectives and strategies to correct deficiencies in defined timeframes and the identification of local board and individual administrative staff responsibilities and activities. The district will provide to the commissioner monthly reports indicating the status of improvement activities in the district. The commissioner will report on the district's efforts at Kentucky Board of Education meetings.

Under KRS 158.785, the district will be designated as "state-managed" until the Kentucky Board of Education determines that the pattern of ineffectiveness and inefficiency has ended and the deficiencies identified through the management audit have been addressed. State management may not continue for more than three years unless a follow-up management audit indicates a need.